

PES-0055

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 13-24, and 26-36 are pending in the present Application. Claims 1 – 26 and 32 have been cancelled, Claims 29 and 34 have been amended, and Claims 27, 28, 31, 33, 35, and 36 have been allowed, leaving Claims 29, 30, and 34 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. Claims 29 and 34 have been amended merely to dispose the claims in independent form. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants note that, in the IDS filed February 10, 2003, the Examiner failed to initial the International Search Report listed in the "Other Documents" section of the PTO form 1449. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the International Search Report submitted with the IDS on February 10, 2003, and send Applicants a fully initialed PTO form 1449.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 26 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 26 and 32 have been cancelled, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Claim Objections

Claims 29, 30, and 34 have been objected to as dependent from rejected base claims. Claims 29 and 34 have been amended to place them in independent form. Claim 30 depends from Claim 29. Since Claims 29 and 34 are now in independent form, and Claim 30 depends from Claim 29, these claims are allowable. Reconsideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

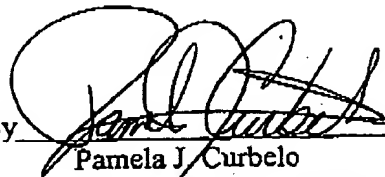
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It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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